

What is claimed is:

1. An interactive table cloth comprising:  
a foldable substrate processed to receive chalk on a writing surface thereof and being washable so as to permit erasing of any chalk marks made on the substrate;  
a border formed around and attached to a peripheral edge of the substrate, the border being formed of a second material that is different from a first material forming the substrate; and  
a guide printed on the writing surface and being indicative of where chalk is to be applied, the guide being formed of a third material different than the first material.
2. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the substrate is formed of an oil cloth material that has one face that is processed so that the user can write with chalk thereon and at the same time, the chalk is easily erased therefrom.
3. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the border is formed of a polymeric material that has a glossy finish on one face.
4. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the border has a pattern formed thereon that is selected from the group consisting of: zigzag, striped, checker board, plaid and geometric.

5. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the border is attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate such that a sealed lip edge is formed around the periphery of the substrate and is defined by a folded section of the border.

6. The table cloth of claim 5, wherein the border is attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate by a turn down hem stitch.

7. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the guide comprises indicia that is permanently bonded to the writing surface by a heat transfer process.

8. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the guide has an educational theme.

9. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the guide is in the form of a game board selected from the group consisting of tic-tac-toe, chess, checkers, and hang man.

10. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the border section includes first indicia formed thereon and associated with a first theme which is the same as a theme of the guide printed on the writing surface.

11. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the guide is in the form of parallel lines to assist the user in practicing writing skills.

12. The table cloth of claim 1, wherein the indicia is in the form of a music bar to assist the user in practicing writing musical notes or songs.

13. An interactive educational kit comprising:

a table cloth including:

a foldable substrate processed to receive chalk on a writing surface thereof and being washable so as to permit erasing of any chalk marks made on the substrate such that the substrate appears substantially new after cleaning;

a border formed around and attached to a peripheral edge of the substrate, the border being formed of a material that is different from a material forming the substrate; and

a guide disposed on the on the writing surface and being indicative of where a writing medium is to be applied on the writing surface;

a writing implement in the form of the chalk which is of the type that can be transferred onto the writing surface and be freely erased therefrom;

a container for holding a cleaning product; and

wherein the border section has a feature formed as an integral part thereof for receiving and holding the writing implement and the container.



between the pair of pads and are held in place against the border section by means of the strap that mates at its ends with the pair of pads.

20. The kit of claim 13, wherein the border section has folded corners so as to be free of sharp edges.

21. The kit of claim 13, wherein the border is attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate such that a sealed lip edge is formed around the periphery of the substrate and is defined by a folded section of the border.

22. The kit of claim 13, wherein the border is attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate by a turn down hem stitch.

23. The kit of claim 13, wherein the guide comprises indicia that is permanently bonded to the writing surface by a heat transfer printing process.

24. The kit of claim 13, wherein the border section is attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate along a folded edge of the border such that any cleaning fluid that is present on the writing surface is contained within a perimeter of the border section.

25. The kit of claim 13, wherein a rear face of each of the substrate and the border section includes a cloth mesh formed thereon to increase robustness and ease of cutability of the border section, respectively.

26. The kit of claim 13, wherein the guide is in the form of a coloring mask for placement on the writing surface, the mask including a number of openings formed therein that expose the writing surface when the mask is laid down on the writing surface to indicate locations where the writing medium is to be applied.

27. The kit of claim 13, wherein the coloring mask is formed of a static cling material.

28. A foldable article of manufacture providing educational and entertainment value comprising:

a substrate processed to receive chalk on a writing surface thereof and being washable so as to permit erasing of any chalk marks made on the substrate;

a border formed around and attached to a peripheral edge of the substrate, the border being formed of a second material that is different from a first material forming the substrate, the border being attached to the peripheral edge of the substrate along a folded edge of the border such that any cleaning fluid that is present on the writing surface is contained within a perimeter of the border and is prevented from flowing between an interface between the folded border and the substrate;

a guide printed on the writing surface and being indicative of where chalk is to be applied, the guide being formed of a third material different than the first material; and

wherein indicia is formed on the border and has an associated theme which is also conveyed in the guide printed on the writing surface.

29. The article of claim 28, wherein the theme is selected from the group consisting of: education; music; sports; religious; corporate logo and board games.

30. The article of claim 28, wherein the article is one of a table cloth and a placemat.

31. The article of claim 28, wherein the guide is a recipe that offers instructions as to preparing food or drink.